

## **Funding Guidelines and General Information for Applicants 2026**

### **What is the FSPT?**

The Foundation for the Study and Preservation of Tells in the Prehistoric Old World (FSPT), established in 2021, is a legal foundation under civil law based in Esslingen am Neckar, Germany, that promotes archaeological research and cultural heritage, especially in the field of settlement archaeology. Specifically, the foundation's purpose is to further the preservation and archaeological research of prehistoric settlement mounds (tells) in the Old World, including their surrounding outer settlements and settlement systems as well as associated cultural phenomena such as cemeteries, *etc.* Apart from fieldwork, the processing and publication of pertinent data, theoretical work is particularly eligible for support that, from a perspective of cultural studies, deals with the understanding of the specific constancy of place and the reference to tradition, the specific materiality and the organisation of social space of prehistoric tell cultures.

### **What is eligible for support?**

The purpose of the foundation's statutes may be achieved in particular through the following measures:

- carrying out archaeological fieldwork and its evaluation including the application of relevant scientific methods (environmental reconstruction, geophysical prospecting, C14 dating, *etc.*),
- acquisition and long-term maintenance of land and protection of prehistoric tell settlements (possibly including their outer settlement),
- implementation of protective measures for archaeological sites of settlement mounds (possibly including their outer settlement), for example long-term leasing or compensation to farmers to remove land from agricultural use,
- promotion of the application and development of non-destructive methods in tell research (geophysics, drilling, *etc.*),
- funding of research projects and work by domestic and foreign scholars who, with an explicitly theoretical orientation and the perspective of cultural studies, devote themselves to the understanding of the characteristic local constancy and reference to tradition, the specific materiality and organisation of social space of prehistoric tell cultures,
- assignment of research grants to domestic and foreign scholars to carry out corresponding work (*e.g.* final theses at master's or dissertation level, book or other publication projects),
- implementation or support of conferences or workshops including the publication of their proceedings,

- support of field projects (also in co-financing), that promise to make a significant contribution to the goals of the foundation formulated at the beginning through the acquisition of new finds and findings
- funding – in exceptional cases – archaeological work and projects of high relevance without direct reference to prehistoric tell cultures.

The above examples are not exhaustive, and the foundation can also take other measures that are suitable for promoting the foundation's purpose. The foundation does not have to pursue all measures simultaneously and to the same extent. There is no legal entitlement to benefits from the foundation. Even with the award of benefits, no actionable claim to a benefit is established. Claims to benefits also do not arise from the principle of equal treatment.

### **Funding available in 2026 and schedule**

For the year 2026 the foundation invites applications for individual projects and other activities related to its purpose up to the amount of max. **20.000 Euro** per annum.

In view of the tense political and economic situation, the foundation's maximum funding amount is limited. Applicants cannot assume that their projects can be fully funded and may please seek funding for their projects elsewhere as well. This applies in particular to multi-year projects, whose one-off funding cannot automatically result in funding for subsequent years. For an overview of the projects supported so far, please see our homepage: <https://foundationstprte.de>

Funding for multi-year projects will normally be limited to three years. Should you envisage a multi-annual project and require funding in subsequent years please do state this clearly in your first application, alongside an approximation of the funding required in the future. In the event of a grant, we will kindly ask you to submit a follow-up application in case you should seek our support beyond the current funding period. In our assessment of such a re-application we will certainly take the positive evaluation of your first proposal into consideration. However, please do note that for legal and fiscal reasons we cannot commit ourselves to funding the continuation of your project, since our funding activity will depend on the means available and the applications that we receive. So please make sure to also be in touch with other funding agencies and to inquire alternative options for ensuring the continuity of your work.

The deadline for applications is **30 November 2025**.

The funding decision will be made during the annual meeting of the foundation's executive and advisory boards in **late January or early February 2026** and communicated to the applicants accordingly.

In order to save prospective applicants the time and effort involved with the preparation of a formal grant application, if you feel there is a good match between your project and our aims outlined above, we invite you to contact us with a concise letter of interest providing some basic information about your plans. If your letter of interest is of interest to us, you will be invited to submit a full proposal.

Applicants will typically be domestic and foreign scholars with a proven record of pertinent experience in tell studies, junior researchers with a strong motivation and plausible interest in the field, as well as legal persons or public bodies that pursue a project suitable for promoting the foundation's purpose, *e.g.* the implementation of protective measures for archaeological sites. The members of the foundation bodies, *i.e.* the executive board and the advisory board, are eligible to apply. A maximum of 50% of the annual funding amount may be spent on projects involving or in conjunction with members of the executive board.

### **Application documents**

Proposals may be written in English or German.

The following documents must be included in an application for a research project:

- description of the research proposal (max. 10 pages plus bibliography as required; please use a readable font, *e.g.* Arial 11 pt. or Times New Roman 12 pt. and line spacing 1.5)
- time schedule, travel itinerary (as applicable)
- detailed cost calculation (specific funds being applied for must be precisely defined, *e.g.* travel expenses, material expenses; no college or tuition fees; no overhead costs)
- curriculum vitae and list of publications of the applicant(s)
- if needed, curriculum vitae and list of publications of the proposed cooperating partner(s) in the project
- any documents required to prove the feasibility of the proposed project (excavation permits, letters of confirmation, *etc.*)

If also a scholarship for the applicant is planned:

- at least one letter of recommendation (signed personally by the author)
- academic certificates of the applicant (Bachelor, Masters, PhD, professorship, *etc.*)

Please ensure that your application documents are complete and submit only those documents as requested.

Please submit your application electronically only in **pdf format** to [foundationstprte@gmail.com](mailto:foundationstprte@gmail.com).

## **Invoicing travel and material expenses**

The foundation is employing a pre-financing and reimbursement system. Receipts shall be provided as evidence of all travel expenses and materials bought. There is no need for any such expenses to be justified in detail if receipts have been provided. Should it not be possible to provide a receipt for a particular cost incurred, the foundation expects a detailed explanation to be provided. The refunding of any such funds is then at the Foundation's discretion.

Travel expenses and hotel expenses shall be settled upon presentation of receipts.

In addition to the provision of receipts, the foundation requests that a list of all expenditures be provided, with all receipts allocated a number for the purposes of easy identification. The invoiced sum should be subdivided according to travel and material expenses.

Please convert all expenses into euros using the exchange rate of the day in question. This exchange rate should be provided in the invoice.

## **Scholarships**

The simultaneous receipt of salary *etc.* and a scholarship is not possible. The funding period for PhD scholarships normally is up to two years. In justified cases, the scholarship period can be extended for up to 12 months if an extension application is made before the end of the second year of funding.

Monthly PhD scholarship award: 1,600 euros

Travel aid: as required

Material aid: as required

Research Scholarships for Postdocs:

Monthly scholarship award: 2,300 euros

Travel aid: as required

Material aid: as required

There shall be no employment relationship between the foundation and the grant recipient; as such, the foundation shall not be liable for social security costs. The foundation recommends that the grant recipient takes out private medical insurance. The foundation cannot make any contributions towards this.

## **General terms and conditions of acceptance**

Scholarships and other support funding provided can in justified individual cases also be disbursed to the institutions involved in the project. The foundation will not conclude any further contracts with partners receiving support or their institutions over and above the grant approval letter itself.

On accepting the grant, the grant recipient is obliged to inform the foundation without delay of any changes which may have a bearing on the granting of the funding or the sum of the grant.

Subsequent to funding for the purposes of completing a doctorate, the foundation requests that it be informed as to whether a doctorate was conferred and with what grade, and also requests that a copy of the (provisional) PhD certificate be provided.

## **Reports and publications**

Interim reports are to be submitted six weeks before the first full year of funding expires. The report should give details of the progress made in the first year of funding including provisional results and future project plans. The foundation shall not provide any guidelines concerning the length of the report.

Final reports are to be submitted at the latest six weeks after expiry of the funding period. The foundation shall not provide any guidelines concerning the length of the report.

The foundation requests that it please be informed in advance about any publications resulting from funding awarded. The foundation shall receive two specimen copies of each book publication (monograph / collection of essays) and possibly three further copies on request, as well as one offprint of every article that is published.

Please always seek to ensure mention of the funding received (including in any press releases published).

We request that press clippings and recordings of radio or television coverage/reports (incl. the date, source and reference number provided in each case) be sent to the foundation immediately after publication/broadcasting/posting. Should press coverage have taken place, publications have come out, or reports have been broadcast/posted during the funding period, we request that you list these in your interim and final reports.

## **Revocation**

The foundation reserves the right to revoke a grant/the granting of project funds and to make a claim for reimbursement if

- the terms of appropriation are not adhered to or the foundation has other good reason for revoking its grant
- the grant was obtained on the basis of incorrect or incomplete details
- conditions imposed by the foundation are not met at all or are not met within the deadlines set by the foundation
- the grant has not been claimed one year after having been awarded and no reason has been given for this
- the funds have not been used for the direct purpose stated
- the funds have not been accounted for in time, as agreed or completely.